

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1849

To establish a program to support the participation of small businesses in meetings and proceedings of international standards organizations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2021

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To establish a program to support the participation of small businesses in meetings and proceedings of international standards organizations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Leadership in Global  
5 Tech Standards Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN INTER-**  
7 **NATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
2           trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
3           ness Administration.

4           (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-  
5           tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term  
6           in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National  
7           Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10  
8           U.S.C. 2358 note).

9           (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
10          tity” means a small business concern that is incor-  
11          porated and maintains a primary place of business  
12          in the United States.

13          (4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term  
14          “small business concern” has the meaning given the  
15          term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15  
16          U.S.C. 632).

17          (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
18          the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
19          establish a program to support participation by covered  
20          entities in meetings and proceedings of standards develop-  
21          ment organizations in the development of voluntary tech-  
22          nical standards.

23          (c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program estab-  
24          lished under subsection (b), the Administrator shall award  
25          competitive, merit-reviewed grants to covered entities to

1 cover the reasonable costs, up to a specified ceiling, of par-  
2 ticipation of employees of those covered entities in meet-  
3 ings and proceedings of standards development organiza-  
4 tions, including—

- 5 (1) regularly attending meetings;
- 6 (2) contributing expertise and research;
- 7 (3) proposing new work items; and
- 8 (4) volunteering for leadership roles such as a  
9 convener or editor.

10 (d) AWARD CRITERIA.—The Administrator may only  
11 provide a grant under this section to a covered entity  
12 that—

- 13 (1) demonstrates deep technical expertise in key  
14 emerging technologies and technical standards, in-  
15 cluding artificial intelligence and related tech-  
16 nologies;
- 17 (2) commits personnel with such expertise to  
18 regular participation in international bodies respon-  
19 sible for developing standards for such technologies  
20 over the period of the grant; and
- 21 (3) agrees to participate in efforts to coordinate  
22 between the Federal Government and industry to en-  
23 sure protection of national security interests in the  
24 setting of international standards.

1       (e) NO MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—A recipient of  
2 an award under this section shall not be required to pro-  
3 vide a matching contribution.

4       (f) EVALUATION.—In making awards under this sec-  
5 tion, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Director  
6 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology,  
7 who shall provide support in the assessment of technical  
8 expertise in emerging technologies and standards setting  
9 needs.

10       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is  
11 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 and  
12 each fiscal year thereafter \$1,000,000 to carry out the  
13 program established under this section.

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